the Lions' Pride

Of Saint Leo University

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Today

Plans Vary over Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving break is a nice chance for SLU students to visit home and have a relaxing week break. Others plan to visit family and friends they don't often see. Page 3

SLU Veterans' Day Ceremony

Saint Leo University celebrated Veterans' Day with its traditional ceremony held at the flagpole in between Saint Francis and Saint Edward halls. Page 4

What Color Decal Do You Have?

This year is the first year Saint Leo has restricted parking by using decals. Tickets have been issued to enforce the designated areas on campus. Page 5

Movie Review: The Matrix Revolutions

The third installment of *The Matrix* trilogy, *The Matrix Revolutions*, was released on Nov. 5. Read the review to decide if it's worth the money. Page 6

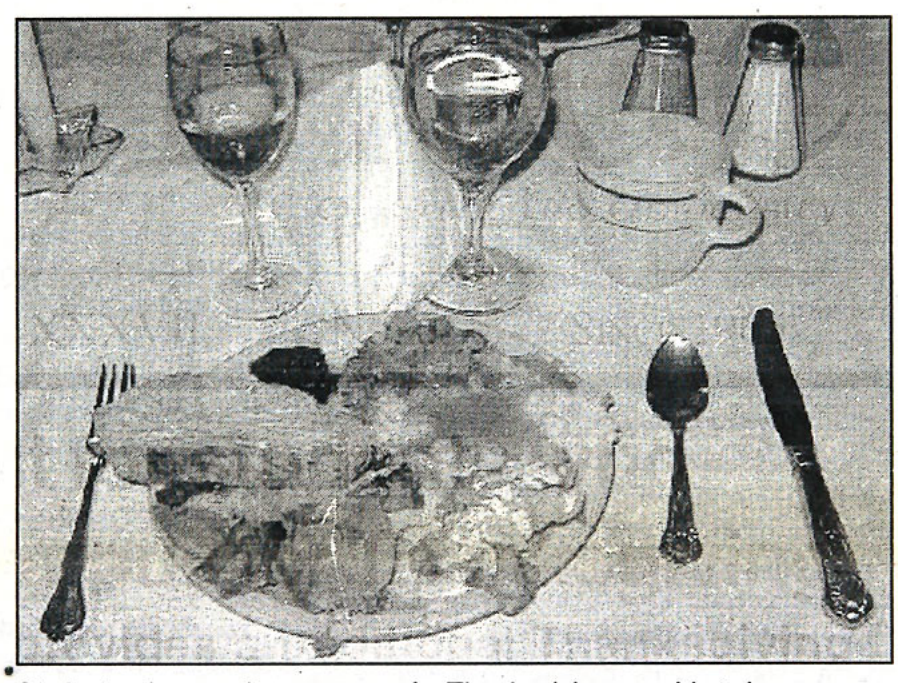
The STARs at SLU Shine Bright

Students involved in STAR use their school pride to promote Saint Leo and make the campus shine brightly when prospective students come to visit. Page 7

Options exist for students who remain on campus for Thanksgiving

Saint Leo not only provides a traditional Thanksgiving feast, but activities are also scheduled.

BY FRANCINE ROSARIO
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride



Students who remain on campus for Thanksgiving are able to have a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

SAINT LEO - Thanksgiving is one of the many holidays that college students throughout the country go back home to spend with their families. However, many students either do not have the money or the convenience to go home.

It may not seem convenient to go home for Thanksgiving, especially if the distance to be traveled is far and the next holiday break is only three weeks away.

"I just went home three weeks ago. It doesn't make sense (to go home) when the next break is weeks away," freshman Meaghann Bolin said.

When this situation arises, many students consider different options, such as staying on campus for Thanksgiving week or spending the week with a friend's family who lives close by. Others choose to stay on campus.

According to Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, assistant director of Student Involvement, organizations like Residence Life and Student Involvement plan fun activities to make sure students who are not going home for the holiday have a fun-filled week. There are trips throughout the holiday week, like a trip to Disney's Animal Kingdom at a low cost of two dollars, a trip to the International Mall in Tampa, or a trip to Wal-Mart in Dade City, where students might want to grocery shop, even though the school's cafeteria remains open throughout the week.

On Thanksgiving day, the cafeteria provides a full Thanksgiving dinner for the students, and Saint Anthony's Church and Holy Monastery also hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who wants to attend.

"We would like for the students to join us for dinner, but if they can't join us, we can pick them up or we can bring the food to their dorm rooms," Betty Burke, a representative of Saint Anthony's Church, said.

THANKSGIVING PAGE 7

The unwritten policy - true or false

BY ALEXANDRIA CRONIN & JENNIFER REILLY
Staff Writers for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO – The personal attention at Saint Leo does not end with academic advising, small classes, and the availability of professors. It also extends to the drug and alcohol policy.

It is a natural occurrence to hear rumors about alcohol and drugs on campus. Recently, it has come to the attention of some students that there may be an unwritten policy in regards to the confiscation of illegal substances. As to whether or not this policy exists, Residence Life has an answer.

When dealing with perpetrators of the Saint Leo alcohol and drug policy, Residence Life deals with every case differently. A student can violate the alcohol policy and be given leniency based on his individual circumstances. It is the attitude of Residence Life that one mistake should not be responsible for jeopardizing a student's future. Director of Residence Life, Mark Steir, believes students should be given "compassion" for their indiscretions.

Students often complain about the strictness of Residence Life, and the "room raids." According to Steir, room raids do not happen unless someone makes a complaint. Saint Leo does not go randomly looking for people breaking the rules. The actual fear of a room raid seems to discourage students from drinking and doing drugs, but this is not true for everyone. The fear does make the campus safer, which is exactly what Residence Life is looking for. When a room search does happen, they announce who they are before coming in, and they only come into the room after having sufficient

POLICY PAGE 7

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Emblems often misinterpreted

BY JUSTIN VANN
The Daily Cougar (U. Houston)

(U-WIRE) HOUSTON — I've never given much thought to how difficult it would be to dispel the negative image of the Confederate flag.

Even though I probably fell asleep during the Civil War section of my history class, I'm pretty sure the flag's contemporary use isn't always just for "southern pride." According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, more than 500 extremist groups use the Southern Cross as one of their symbols.

My advocacy for the Confederate flag will not be warmly accepted, especially at one of the most diverse universities in the country. I only ask for readers to understand that I support the Confederate flag as nothing more than an artifact of the past and an icon of southern pride.

Opponents of the flag cry racism on the grounds that the South supported slavery and even went to war over it. But slavery was, at most, one-third of the dividing issues during the Civil War. Unfair tariffs, states' rights and sectionalism were the front-and-center conflicts.

Slavery was an agitating factor in the war. The South felt its interests were of little concern to Congress. Slavery was one of many examples in which the South felt underrepresented. Because of this, there is little historical context to call the Confederate flag a symbol of hatred.

I won't deny that the South was supporting slavery in its secession. Nor will I deny that supporting slavery is very wrong. However, I contest that the Confederate flag is not inherently an icon of inhumanity.

It is logically inconsistent to call the confederate flag a racist symbol when so little of its meaning is actually tied to racism. The Confederate flag is as much a part of our history as the American flag.

Weren't several authors of the Constitution slave owners? Was it the Confederate flag or the Stars and Stripes that was flown on ships that carried newly captured slaves to America? Did Native Americans give us America?

The American flag carries just as many racist connotations as the Southern Cross, if not more. Racism, then and now, is a problem in all of America, not just the South. And as for those who don't believe racism is still a prevalent scourge of this country, I have one question: Do you know who Shoshana Johnson is?

Even in the present, the Confederate flag is incorrectly associated with the extremist groups that misuse it. Racist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan wave Confederate flags and loosely tie the flag to their own twisted beliefs.

Then in turn, groups that defend racial justice — like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People — are just as quick to falsely correlate the flag to the ideas of hatemongers. This is guilt by association on both sides of the debate.

Humanity has a long history of screwing up icons for people who use them responsibly. Before the swastika became the hood ornament of the Nazi regime, it was used by Native Americans, Buddhists and found in early Mexican art. It was even once considered good luck. Aside from making my visits to Indian reservations briefly confusing, the history of the swastika shows us that symbolism is in the eye of the beholder.

I look at the Confederate flag and feel pride in the South, just as I look at an American flag and feel grateful for my country. Some look at the Confederate flag and see hatred, while others look at the American flag and feel hated.

To attack the Confederate flag is to avoid any proactive movement toward fixing racism in America. Stop using history as a scapegoat and become active.

SLU Chain Gang

Natasha Fredericks

I hereby issue a public challenge to the organizers of Community Service (Mandatory Labor) Day, Saint Leo students, faculty, and staff. Ever since I came to this school, I have always found it odd that "Community Service Day" was required. Clubs must have 25 percent of their members present; athletes must attend; and this year, freshmen enrolled in UNV 102 had to participate. I view this as yet another attempt by this university to forcibly instill "Benedictine" values and create a sense of "community," whether people like it or not. It is possible to force a community to coalesce. However, that is not what is at issue.

The issue is that you have destroyed the whole meaning of community service by making it mandatory. However, take a chance to redeem yourselves. Take this opportunity to prove that your Benedictine values are meaningful. Prove that your community-building has been a success.

MAKE COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY VOLUNTARY.

Offer no rewards.

Offer no reprimands.

Stand back and see if the moral Benedictine community you seek to create has been successful. I would rather see twenty-five people show up who truly wanted to be there and give of their own hearts than a hundred who don't.

I and the undersigned challenge Saint Leo University to make next semester's Community Service day voluntary.

Rachel Blackwood [illegible] [illegible]
Julia C Carroll genarita chiriboga [illegible]
[illegible]

There are many other people (not limited to students) on campus who feel the same way.

WRITE HERE

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in portable #4, which is on the west side of St. Edward's Hall. Our phone number is (352) 588-8195.

Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu

Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship. All letters are subject to editing.

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Southern flag symbolizes slavery

BY SAMIRA ZAIDI
The Daily Cougar (U. Houston)

(U-WIRE) HOUSTON — It can stand for liberty and justice or for hatred and evil — a flag that flutters in the wind atop buildings or stuck on the back of a car.

In the case of the Confederate flag which has recently been at the center of so much controversy — some say it honors the heritage of the South while others insist it is a symbol of a very traumatic time.

The flag was embraced by the Confederate Army, and although its purpose was initially to be the banner of the Confederacy, those who interpret the flag as an emblem of Southern pride need to understand that this symbol of the South has turned into something else.

The Statue of Liberty is a towering symbol of America. Immigrants who come by ship and pass through Ellis Island in New York embrace Lady Liberty as their new saint of freedom and opportunity.

But Lady Liberty was initially a gift from the French — who didn't consider this statue would eventually be interpreted as a sign of protection.

The Confederate flag's in the same predicament.

During the Civil War it was the South that embraced slavery. It doesn't take a genius to realize that slavery impeded human rights and allowed white men to step on the rights of blacks.

Slavery is a disgrace to American history and will always remain a dark spot in this country's legacy. The Declaration of Independence, which clearly states "all men are created equal," was contested because of the slavery issue.

On Martin Luther King Day of 2000, protests flared about the Confederate flag that was waving proudly over the South Carolina Statehouse.

Opponents argued that the flag symbolized a time when slavery was considered OK.

"This is not the kind of thing we need to be doing on Martin Luther King's birthday," Martin Luther King III said at a rally. "The flag is a terrible symbol that brings a lot of negative energy. And while we believe the flag has an appropriate place, it just does not belong on top of the Capitol because it is not a sign of unification."

Others said that the Nazi flag, which pictured a swastika, was a part of Germany's history and was only considered hateful when it was used as part of propagating the Holocaust.

Having a flag as an emblem or symbol to signify a cause is fine; in fact it's healthy. But people use such symbols to do horrible things, and when that happens unity should take precedence.

If it is a well known fact that during the Civil War the Confederate flag not only flew as a proud part of southern heritage, but also as a reminder to what the South embraced — like slavery — then for the sake of unity, it shouldn't be plastered everywhere.

Those who argue that the Southern Cross is part of our heritage should get over it. Not flying a Confederate flag from a car antenna won't turn a person into a Yankee.

Trust me: Once you open your mouth, everyone will know.

Plans vary over Thanksgiving break

BY BRYAN McCABE
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - In modern American culture, Thanksgiving has become a symbol for thankfulness. The holiday provides a great chance to get into the holiday spirit. It is a time to show family and friends how much they are appreciated and to be happy for what we have. It is also a time to be generous and thoughtful.

Thanksgiving immediately brings to mind the thoughts of good food, such as turkey, stuffing, pumpkins, and cranberries. Thanksgiving has also become a holiday of entertainment. Watching a Thanksgiving Day parade is a great way to spend the morning, and then football is on throughout the day. But besides that, Thanksgiving break is a nice chance for SLU students to visit home and have a relaxing week break.

Thanksgiving marks the end of fall and the beginning of the holiday season. Besides Thanksgiving Day, there is a week break. This break is a good opportunity for SLU students to catch up on homework and get some rest before finals.

SLU students have many different plans over the break. For many of the out-of-state students, Thanksgiving break is a chance to visit home and see their families.

"I love New England and miss our fall season," says freshman Chris Martina. "I can't wait till Thanksgiving to see the trees and my family."

Ryan Campbell, senior, says, "My whole family is from New Hampshire. Since I go to school here at Leo, I only get to see them a few times year. Thanksgiving gives me the chance to catch up with all of my cousins and my two younger sisters, who I don't get to spend as much time with as I would like. On Thanksgiving, I love getting up late and eating till I feel sick. After a few hours of eating turkey and banana fritters, nothing makes me happier than spending the rest of the day sitting on the couch watching football and drinking eggnog."

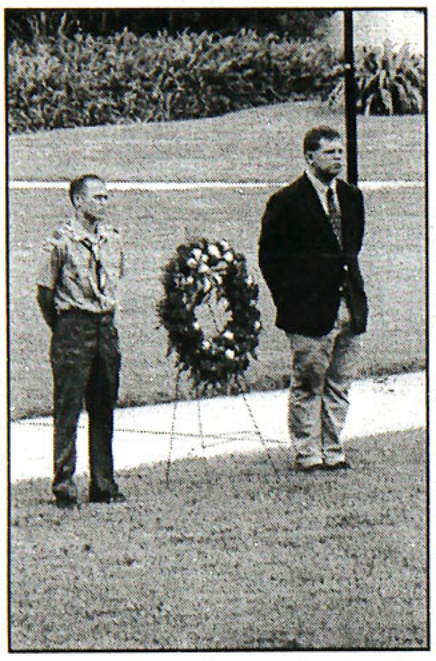
Some students live closer to Leo. For them, Thanksgiving is a chance to just hang out with family and relax.

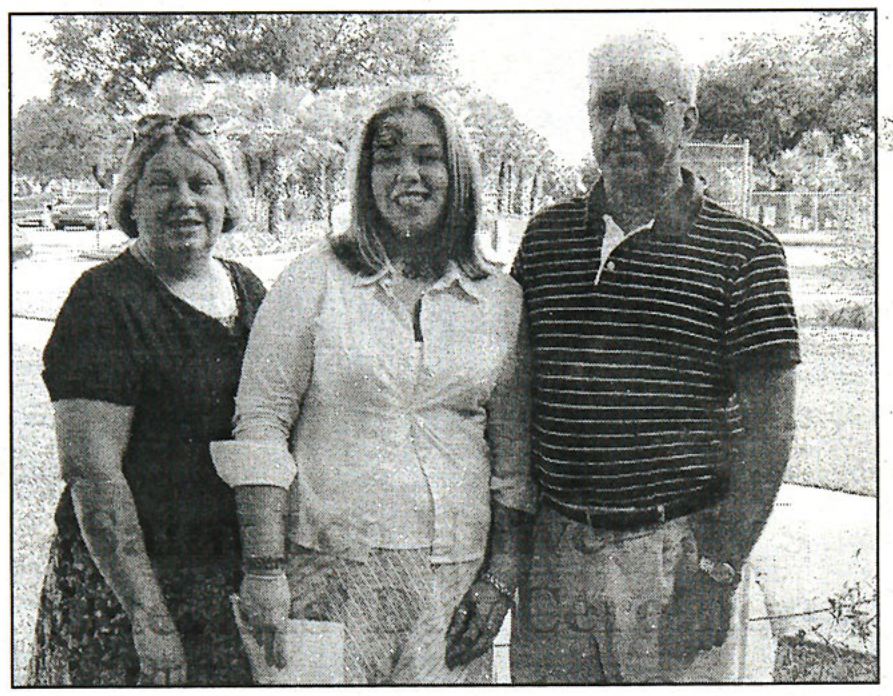
"I can't wait to go home (New Port Richey) for the good food!" says Danielle Bretschneider. Although many of these students visit home often, Thanksgiving is still a good opportunity to catch up with family and friends.

And still other students, like myself, plan on using the break as a chance to go on vacation. I plan on going up to Maine to visit relatives I don't see very often since I live in Florida, and to do some sightseeing.

Whatever students have planned, Thanksgiving break promises to be a great holiday that almost all SLU students are excited about.

Saint Leo University's Veterans' Day Ceremony November 11, 2003





Dear, Veterans,

I am glad that your bravery and ~~skill~~ skill has helped us Thank you for protecting our country and Keeping our freedom. Thanks again.

Kyle Boot

Boy scout troop 148

Dear Veteran,
God Bless you for fighting for our country's freedoms. Without you America would not be safe.

Thank you,
Calvin Britton
Kevin Zimmer
Boy Scout Troop 143

The American Veteran

by Meaghan C. Tobin

The American Veteran is not simply someone who fought in a war and survived to come home and tell the story. He is someone who put his own precious life on the line in order to protect those back home. The American Veteran spent countless months in a country unfamiliar to him with bullet shells flying all around him. He spent numerous hours watching and waiting to protect and serve this wonderful country that we so luckily get to call home.

It is true that America is the home of the brave. The brave are those who fought for this country and did it with honor. The American Veteran did it without asking any questions. The American Veteran did it not for himself, but for his friends, family, loved ones, and everyone one else in the country. He did it to give us the freedom we have today.

I have a special place in my heart for all veterans; my father is in fact one of them. He served two terms in Vietnam as well as serving 23 years in the Army. Through him, I have heard numerous stories of his encounters, and I have heard his friends' stories about how even though they were only teenagers, they would do anything to fight for their country. Many of them left at a young age, before they were old enough to vote, and served this country with all their might.

We nationally honor these men and women one day a year on November 11. But shouldn't they be honored everyday when they are seen walking down the street? There is nothing more important than someone fighting for our freedom. Some of today's veterans were drafted into wars at 17 years of age against what they wanted to do, but if they had the chance, they'd do it all again. That just shows how much a veteran cares about his country. His loyalty to his country shouldn't just be recognized on one day, but everyday of the year. He has given more than most people in my generation could ever imagine.

The American Veteran is an everday man or woman who put his or her life on the line for our country in a time of need and came back as a hero and did not even realize it. The American Veteran is our hero, a hero who never expected to be one when he left, but came back as one and should be treated as such.

November 11 may be one day to nationally recognize veterans for what they have done, but if you see one any of the other days of the year, perhaps you should just say a simple thank you, for he put his life on the line for you in order for you to have what you do today.

At the ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 11, Meaghan Tobin read her winning essay about Veterans' Day. Anthony Domingo sang God Bless America. After the ceremony, the Veterans' Day wreath, letters, poems, and cards were delivered to the local Veterans' nursing home.

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for risking your lives at war to protect us. Thank you for protecting us against terrorism. You have supported us a lot. We are all very greatful. Thank you.

Henrique Jaime

(Boy Scout Troop 143)

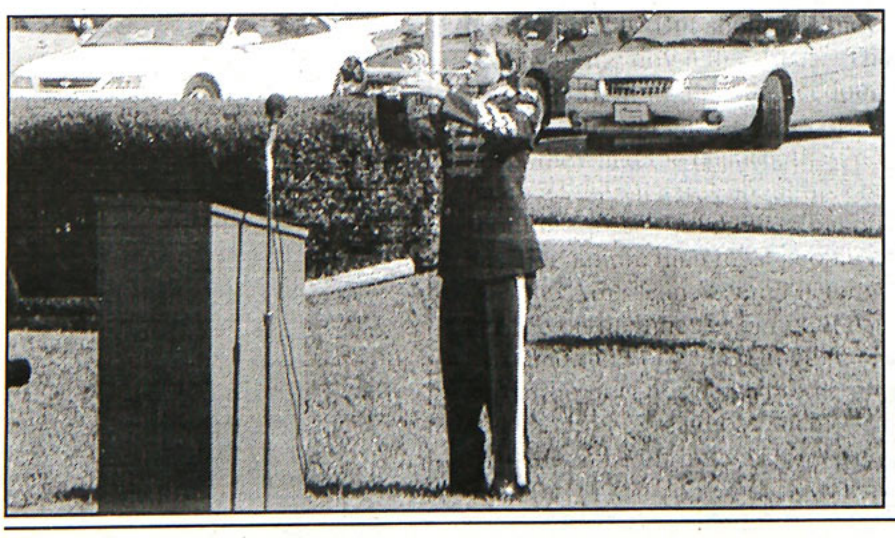
Dear Veterans,

Thank you so much for making our country a better place. If it were not for you, This world would be a bit darker.

You make a difference,

Erik

(Boy Scout Troop 148)



What color decal do you have?

The colored parking decals allow students, staff, and faculty to park in designated areas.

BY JENNIFER ROBINSON
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

Photograph by Julia Carroll

For those who do not adhere to the designated parking areas, tickets and fines will occur.

SAINT LEO - The wrong color could cost you $25.

This year is the first year Saint Leo University has enforced parking by using decals. Students and faculty were required to purchase these decals, which authorize the parking of a vehicle on campus. According to a security guard who likes to be referred to as Beasley, "It helps us keep track of students and helps us locate them in case of an emergency."

According to the Parking and Traffic Handbook, which is displayed in Trane Stop, Security, and in various other places on campus, there are regulations to which residents and commuter students must adhere.

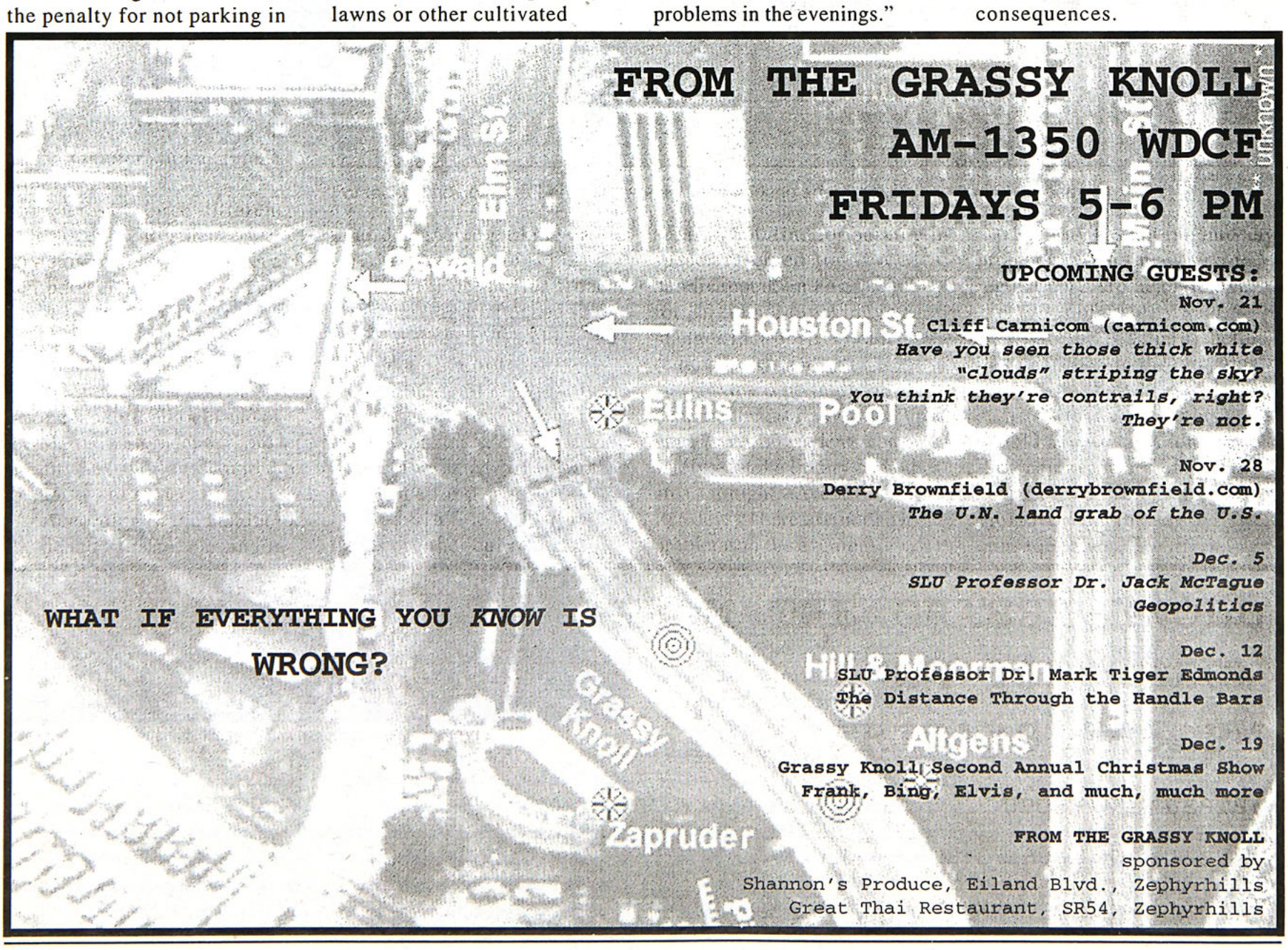
There are three different color decals. Resident students who have gold decals can park on campus, except for restricted areas. However, students who live in The Apartments and Marmion-Synder are restricted to park behind the softball field and in the Marmiom-Synder parking lot. Faculty and staff are required to display a yellow decal.

According to the handbook, the penalty for not parking in your designated parking area is a $25 ticket. There is also a $15 fine for not having a decal or not having it attached to the inside of the windshield at the bottom corner of the driver's side. Other parking violations include a $35 ticket for parking in loading zones, a $25 fine for obstructing lanes/ cross walks, a $50 fine for parking in fire lanes, a $15 fine for parking on lawns or other cultivated areas, a $50 fine for parking in spaces reserved for handicapped, and a $50 fine for parking or blocking in a manner that obstructs the removal of trash.

Parking is permitted in all restricted areas daily from 3 p.m until 7 a.m, so students can safely visit the library and other areas at night. According to Beasley, "There are not any problems in the evenings."

Security has not run into any problems with its new parking regulations, Jerome F. Helton, supervisor of security, said.

"Parking is actually better this year than in the pervious years," she said. Helton also suggests that all students should acquire a handbook so they can be aware of parking violations as well as general violations and the consequences.



Arts & Entertainment

MOVIE REVIEW

"Everything has a beginning and an end"

BY RACHEL BLACKWOOD
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

The third installment of *The Matrix* trilogy, *The Matrix Revolutions*, was released on Nov. 5 by Warner Bros. Anyone who was disappointed by the second movie will not find much improved in the third. Many of the same tricks are still in place (huge fight between Neo and Smith, multiple Smiths, sunglasses, etc.); even Trinity's trademark crane kick from the first movie, parodied in so many movies since, makes a reappearance. The thing that does not reappear, and possibly never can, is the shock of originality that the first *Matrix* unleashed.

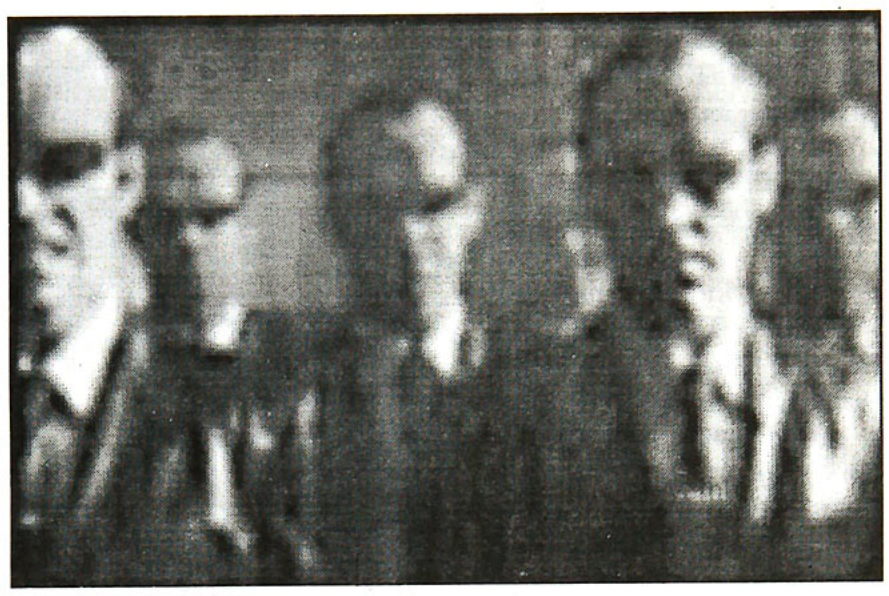
The Matrix Revolutions was written and directed by Larry and Andy Wachowski. It stars Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Ann Moss, Laurence Fishburne, and Hugo Weaving. The film was preceded by *The Matrix* (1999) and *The Matrix Reloaded* (2003).

The film got off to a slow start, beginning in the "real world," where the last film left off. First, there was no need to make the *Matrix* trilogy a trilogy at all. The second movie, *Matrix Reloaded*, was released earlier this year in May; in terms of plot, it did not move the story along much. The film was mostly filler, which assumed the form of deep, psychological set up for the final installment. Audiences waited for the next movie that would bring the climactic battle between humans and machines, which is what they wanted to see after the first *Matrix*.

The dialog in the *Matrix* trilogy is interesting because it is divided into two very distinct categories: the long speech dialog and conversation dialog. The speeches are beautiful to listen to: "Everything that has a beginning has an end. I see the end coming. I see the darkness spreading. I see death, and you are all that stands in his way. If you cannot stop him tonight, then I fear tomorrow will never come." They do not sound natural, but since the Matrix itself is artificial, the script writers have some license. The speeches sound like great care was taken to write them, and the actors took great care in delivering them (especially Agent Smith, played by Hugo Weaving), relishing the words as they came. However, it is curious that the writers did not spend more time on the rest of the dialog in the film. As usual for the trilogy, it is short, terse, choppy, and at times cheesy. The gap between the high language of the long speeches and the lower conversational dialog is jarring. Unlike some other aspects of the trilogy, the dialog has remained consistent.

Having recently watched the first installment of *The Matrix*, I was surprised to see differences in the style of the three films. In the first movie, there is little that is flashy or glamorous, aside from the spectacular fight scenes. The world of the Matrix in the first film is much duller than it appears in the two later films; the colors are muted and slightly tinted green. Even the club where Neo and Trinity meet is not especially flashy, unlike the Merovingian's club in *Revolutions*. The Matrix in the later films is much more colorful and vivid. Even the "real world" is prettier than it was in the first film. Sure, there's dirt and sweat. But the inhabitants of the last human city, Zion, are all gorgeous (as is demonstrated in the extended dance scene of *Reloaded*). The "real world" appears more idealized in the later films. One of the reasons for this change is that the two later *Matrix* movies are war time films.

War time entertainment has historically been different than peace time entertainment. During war, people tend to prefer things that are familiar and reassuring. The films that are made during war are often more patriotic and idealized than films during peace time. The *Matrix* trilogy demonstrates this beautifully since part of the trilogy was filmed during the United States' involvement with Iraq. If one were to watch all three films in succession (or maybe just the first two), it is easy to see the changes. The second two films are more glamorous. This final installment even borders on war propaganda with its depiction of war time in Zion. Archetypes of war movies are also evident in the film: a young boy who wants to prove himself, women doing their part to help their husbands, and husbands fighting to get home to their families. Of course, one will have to see the movie to find out if the final message will be one of peace, victory, or both.



Photographs courtesy of http://whatisthematrix.warnerbros.com/

For the Cause

Photograph by Julia Carroll

Students, faculty, and staff of Saint Leo University came together Nov. 8 for the annual Community Service Day. Volunteers worked in The Grotto (pictured) cutting down vines and raking straw. They also worked in the Abbey Orange Groves and the Holy Name Monastery.

Volunteers were served a continental breakfast before they started working in the morning, and once their work was finished, they were served lunch in the McDonald Center.

POLICY CON'T ——— grounds to do so.

Two things can affect a student's punishment: attitude and previous rule violations.

"If a student is remorseful and courteous, then the consequences might be a little less harsh," Steir said.

The punishment of a student often relies upon how many previous illegal actions he had committed. If a student has 10 or 11 points prior to being caught, he will more than likely be expelled. In past occurrences, students have been caught doing drugs just days before graduation. These students had gained points previously, and Residence Life had no other option than to expel them.

The degree of punishment for violation of the alcohol/drug policy is stated on page 118 of the 2003-2004 Residence Life Handbook. Alcohol and drug sanctions rely on a point system. As a result of gaining 12 points, students are suspended. The decision as to how many and when points are assigned is dependent upon the decision of Residence Life. It is with this "compassion" that students may not attain 12 points and may avoid suspension.

The University seems to be neutral in reference to students of drinking age. It is legal, but it is not condoned or encouraged. It is clearly stated on page 101 of the Residence Life Handbook that, "The University does not encourage the use or condone any drinking patterns or behaviors that are detrimental to the health and welfare of the individual, student, group, or University community."

So as rumors are spread, the policies of Saint Leo University remain intact, yet flexible. There is no unwritten policy regarding drugs and alcohol, but every case is considered with all the factors involved, and the punishments rely on quantity.

THANKSGIVING CON'T ———

"It's from two to three, and we would love to have the students join us."

Going home for Thanksgiving is sometimes not possible for everyone. However, Saint Leo does a stupendous job making the students feel at home throughout the holiday, so for those who are not going home next week, sit back and enjoy shopping at the mall and Disney.

The STARs at Saint Leo shine bright

BY JENNIFER REILLY
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - If you want to look for enthusiastic opinions about Saint Leo University, just ask a member of STAR. Students involved in STAR use their school pride to promote Saint Leo and make our campus shine brightly when prospective students come to visit.

Student Team of Admission Recruiters, better known as STAR, has started the year off right with Select Candidate Days, which took place October 19-20 and November 9-10. Select Candidate Days attracted about 55 prospective students each time. This number reflects the growing interest in Saint Leo University and the importance of the STAR organization.

"STAR's goals are to welcome prospects to the campus and give families a glimpse into Leoland, via a current student," said Claire Kelly, advisor of STAR. Kelly is involved in the preparation of each STAR event.

Other students who are in charge of STAR include Margeaux Royals-Frey, president, and Cory Mather, admissions intern.

During Select Candidate Days, prospective students spend the night in the residence halls with a host student. They get a guided tour and other planned activities to learn about the educational, social, and extracurricular opportunities at Saint Leo.

"I really enjoyed the icebreakers and meeting new people," stated prospective student Jennifer Corea.

Most students will admit that icebreakers are fun and do give them an idea of the type of people they will encounter at Saint Leo. Icebreakers also give future students a chance to see the diversity of the University's students.

It is obvious by the attitudes of the prospective students what they expect from the colleges they are thinking of attending. Some students asked about the tutoring opportunities available, while others inquired about how easy it is to party on campus.

When joining STAR, host students are asked to sign a waiver. In this waiver, they agree not to take their prospective students off campus, and under no circumstances to provide them with any alcohol or illicit drugs. It is important that when future students come here, Saint Leo portrays the best it has to offer, yet gives prospective students a realistic view of campus life.

After their night at Saint Leo, a majority of the students said that Select Candidate Days succeeded in giving them an idea of whether or not they would like to attend this university.

Current students usually have an interesting story from when they first visited the campus. My own personal experience involved losing my tour group, oversleeping breakfast hours, and listening to one of the best lectures I've ever heard. These experiences shape potential students' first impressions of the University and are useful in making the decision to attend or not.

Upcoming events for STAR include Picture This in March and April. Picture This is similar to Select Candidate Days but welcomes students to picture what it would be like to actually attend Saint Leo. These events are the best ways for future students to get a glimpse into the exciting world of Saint Leo University.

Sports

Women's soccer concludes dream year with 12-6-2

BY WALT RIDDLE
Sports Information Director

SAINT LEO - An unforgettable season. That's what the Saint Leo University women's soccer team had in 2003. It came to an end last Friday evening in the Sunshine State Conference post-season tournament, as the University of Tampa defeated the Lions 2-1 in overtime in a semifinal match. Barry University went on to win the title, defeating Tampa 2-1.

The Lions knocked off Florida Tech at home 2-1 in a quarterfinal match in the tournament. The Lions finished in a tie for second place in the SSC with a 5-2 record and were 12-6-2 overall. They were picked to finish seventh in the pre-season poll conducted by coaches and sports information directors.

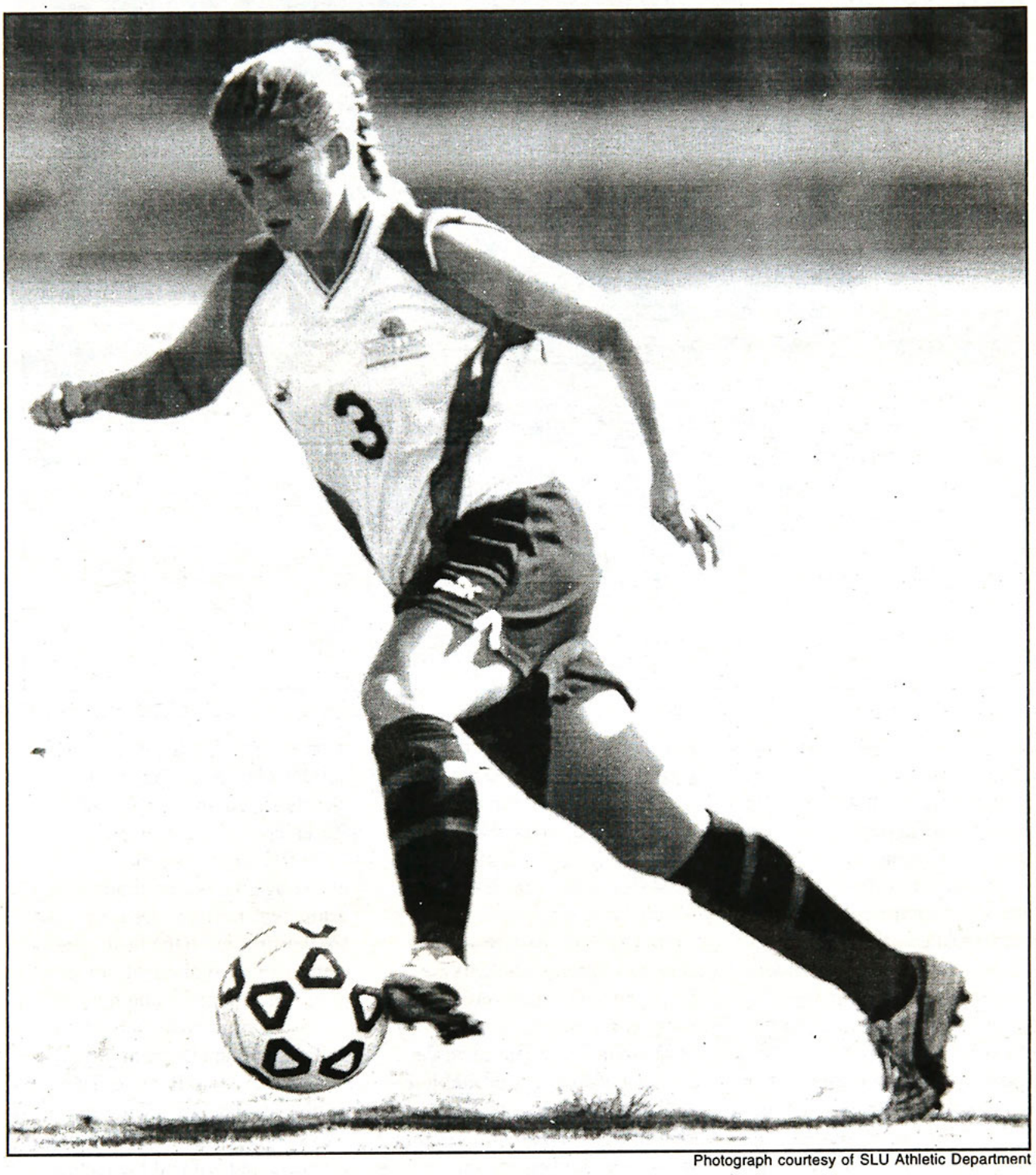
The All-Conference team was announced last week, and Tony Paris was named SSC coach-of-the-year, while freshman forward Casie Poyssick of Land O'Lakes, FL was a unanimous pick for All-Conference and was named freshman-of-the-year. Freshman defender Maria DeMaio of Palm Beach Gardens, FL was named honorable mention, All-Conference.

Poyssick was chosen SSC offensive player-of-the-week four times during the season, while DeMaio was selected SSC defensive player-of-the-week once. Poyssick finished the year as the leading scorer in the league with 59 points and also had the most goals with 26. She tied the conference record for most goals in a single season and was highlighted last month in the "Faces In The Crowd" section of Sports Illustrated magazine for her accomplishments.

Against Florida Tech, junior midfielder Caron Lumbra of Orlando, FL gave her team a 1-0 lead, 12 minutes and 39 seconds into the match with her fourth goal of the season. Poyssick assisted on the goal.

The Lions made it 2-0 at the 67:59 mark on a goal by senior midfielder Helen Brady of Pinellas Park, FL, her third of the season. Again, Poyssick assisted on the play. The Panthers scored at the 75:12 mark, but the Lions dug in and held them at bay the rest of the match. Senior defender Kim Ciliberto of Johnston, RI and graduate student goalkeeper Amber Ferrol of Clearwater, FL led the play in the back. Ferrol finished with six saves. Brady's fourth goal of the year off a direct kick from 35 yards gave Saint Leo a 1-0 lead against Tampa, 11 minutes and 34 seconds into play. It was the only shot on goal in the match for the Lions. Tampa tied the score at the 33:16 mark and won the match with six seconds remaining in the first overtime.

Poyssick was named to the All-Tournament team.



Photograph courtesy of SLU Athletic Department

Sophomore Sarah Wright is a midfielder from Clearwater, FL.

Men's soccer team peaks at right time; ends year at 8-10-3

BY WALT RIDDLE
Sports Information Director

Peaks and valleys.

All athletic teams go through them. Hopefully, your team peaks at the right time.

Coach Fran Reidy and his Saint Leo University men's soccer team peaked at the right time this year and reached the semifinals of the Sunshine State Conference post-season tournament before falling to Lynn University, the nation's No. 1 ranked Division II team, in Boca Raton 4-0. Lynn defeated Barry University 2-1 on Sunday to win the title.

Saint Leo defeated the University of Tampa 3-2 at home in a quarterfinal match of the league tournament. The Lions posted a 4-2-1 record in their final seven games to conclude the 2003 season with a 8-10-3 record.

Going into the final week of regular season play, the Lions had their backs to the wall and need a tie and a win at worst to finish in fourth place and host a quarterfinal match. Despite being a man short for over 35 minutes, the Lions played to a 1-1, double overtime draw with Florida Southern College, setting up a Saturday showdown on the road against Tampa. The Lions emerged with a 1-0 win.

The victory was the first by a Reidy-coached team in 16 attempts against Tampa. Could the Lions make it two straight against the Spartans in a three-day period? Yes, they could and did, thanks to reserve freshman forward Brandon Jones' first collegiate goal with two minutes and four seconds left in regulation. The Sunrise, FL resident was set up on a perfect pass from junior reserve midfielder John Semeraro of Paducah, KY.

Freshman forward Asmir Pervan of St. Petersburg, FL put the Lions on the scoreboard first with his seventh goal of the season at the 20:22 mark. Senior forward Mike Rosso of Tarpon Springs, FL assisted on the play.

Tampa rebounded to score two straight goals, but the Lions weren't finished. Reserve junior midfielder Titou Fierro of Lausanne, Switzerland tied the match on a great pass from Pervan at the 77-minute mark. An eight minute and 13 second surge proved to be the difference in the match with Lynn. The Knights scored three goals from the 29:55 mark to the 38:13 mark and added a penalty kick with 1:43 left in regulation to close out the scoring.

The Lions were held to only three shots on goal by the unbeaten Knights. Junior forward Tony Rosso of Tarpon Springs, FL was the only Saint Leo player to receive All-Conference honors. Rosso was named to the honorable mention list.

Pervan was the lone Lion named to the Conference All-Tournament team.